HAWK REPORT: MAY 2012

May is Teacher Appreciation Month so it is great to look back and reflect on the accomplishments of my staff this year. This has not been the easiest year but I am so proud of my staff for their perseverance and trust in each other. This year we had to make some changes to our schedules, removed our leadership class and asked staff to step up in other areas of supervision. I was concerned about the impact on our climate without a leadership class but this was solved by staff members stepping up to make it happen. In the midst of all of this was coping with the death of Cody. I can safely say that this is one of the most difficult things that I have ever had to go through and my staff would agree. They were a tower of strength for students, parents and I to rely on. I am blessed to work with such a wonderful group of teachers who put kids first.

Our students are showing off their many talents this week. We have over 50 students qualifying for the District meet which is a tremendous accomplishment. I also appreciate the way that our students conduct themselves at meets. Our teams are often complimented on their behavior at away events. Thank you to Coaches Broten, Austad, Slinkard and Dykes for all of their efforts this year. This month we had our annual talent show with 17 students showcasing a variety of talents. I was not organized enough to get my song in but will do my best to vocally embarrass myself by the end of the year.

The staff and I have been proud of our students' efforts on the MSP. We have noticed that many students have taken extra time to do their best work. My personal challenge has been to help students navigate through the online Reading MSP. On the first day, it was somewhat chaotic as the software was not being cooperative on a couple of questions. Once we worked out the glitches, it has gone fairly well. The biggest problem has been the large number of absent students due to the current bug and personal reasons. We are doing our best to make sure that all students complete the test before the deadline but it is much more difficult when our kids are missing multiple days of school.

Next year we welcome Joyce Mosby back to our staff. With Joyce returning, it will allow us to free up some other teachers to teach other subjects which means more electives and potentially core classes. Our Educational Leadership program continues to grow with over 60 students signed up. The word has spread among the elementary staff as more teachers have signed on to be teacher mentors. In an effort to visit these students more in the classroom and to increase the rigor and feedback, Miss Tyrrell will be facilitating the class next year as part of her administrative internship. I appreciate the dedication of this students as they were all willing to take a summer health class in order to be a student tutor next year. There will also be some other electives next year including a 6th grade art rotation, electronics and our leadership class will return.

This month, I began preparing our 5th grade students (also known as the future ferrets) for

middle school. Each class came over to the school for a tour. They got to see what their classrooms looked like, met some teachers and saw how to open a locker. These three things are what seem to stress the kids out the most. The most terrifying encounter they had was seeing what the PE locker rooms looked like. Most left the boys locker room covering their noses like they had been exposed to SARS or some hazardous materials. I think they will survive this ordeal and have a great start to next year. The other group that gets nervous around this time are the parents of our future 6th graders. To help relieve their concerns, LCMS will be hosting a 5th grade parent tour and then answering questions after that. The key to a successful transition is having parents, teachers and students on the same plan. I hope this will help achieve that goal.

This month's early release day will address a number of issues from this year and planning for next year. We will continue to build on our discussion from last month in regards to having students be more reflective in their work. Staff will design reflective assessment sheets that will be attached to completed assessments so that students can analyze their work to understand their strengths and areas of improvement. Dan Bentson will also be conducting a workshop so that all staff members will have a functioning website for next year. We will also be reviewing our advisory program and the new principal evaluation system.

As I write this, I realize there is only 20 school days to go so while we are close to the end of the year, there is still so much to do. I look forward to this time of year as kids are working hard and they see the results of their labor come to fruition. We also prepare to say goodbye to a nice group of 8th grade students who we know will do a good job at the high school. It is a bittersweet time of year yet I always look forward to it.

GO HAWKS

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